



CJCC

Newsletter

A quarterly publication to foster communications and promote coordination within the criminal justice system of Northwest Ohio.

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The Ohio Drug Treatment Initiative Update

by **Holly Bockbrader**, Project Coordinator

The Campaign for New Drug Policies (CNDP), a California based group, is preparing a drug reform initiative to amend Article IV of the Ohio Constitution. Significantly reducing the discretion of the court, the Ohio Drug Treatment Initiative would require offenders who meet specified criteria convicted of certain drug-related crimes, to participate in probation and drug treatment programs, instead of sentencing them to incarceration. The treatment initiative focuses on first and second-time offenders convicted of possession, use, transportation for personal use, or being under the influence of controlled substances and similar violations, not including sale, trafficking or manufacturing. An offender would not be eligible for treatment if convicted of or imprisoned for a violent felony within the previous five years. If the offender successfully completes the treatment program, the court will dismiss the charges and seal the records related to the offense. The *Columbus Dispatch* reports that the CNDP, as of April 24, 2002, has obtained one-third of the required signatures to put the issue on the November 5, 2002 ballot. The CNDP has until August of 2002 to obtain

the necessary signatures. A poll performed by The Ohio State University in August 2001 found that 74 percent of Ohio voters would be in favor of an amendment to the constitution mandating drug treatment in lieu of conviction for nonviolent drug offenders.

Through FY2009, \$38 million annually, adjusted for inflation, will be appropriated for implementation of this new amendment. In FY2003, \$19 million which represents a partial year funding, would be appropriated to provide for local and state preparation for the program.

Similar legislation was passed in California as Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000, and took effect July 1, 2001. CNDP was largely responsible for the success of this proposition. Since implementation, most drug offenders have been sentenced to outpatient therapy in an effort to reduce costs. However, offenders who need more intensive treatment may spend time in jail, waiting for a residential bed opening. The *Santa Cruz Sentinel* reported in February 2002 that more than 30 percent of Proposition 36 defendants in Los Angeles County

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have not participated in the mandatory treatment programs.

For additional information on the Ohio Drug treatment Initiative, please check the following websites:

<http://www.ohiodrugreform.org>

<http://www.drugreform.org>

"If the offender successfully completes the treatment program, the court will dismiss the charges and seal the records related to the offense."

Grant Funding Solicitation Update

by Ann Bowland, Grants Manager

Ohio's Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) has released application information for the following federal grant programs:

FY2001 Edward Byrne Memorial ñ Homeland Security Program

Area for projects that develop plans to facilitate data collection, analysis and information sharing among agencies; review equipment and technology needs; ensure the thoroughness of local emergency response plans; coordinate efforts to prevent biological, technological and agricultural terrorism; and develop a response and recovery strategy for terrorist activities or attacks in Ohio. Request for Proposals were released for 6-month project period

beginning July 1, 2002. The deadline date is May 15, 2002.

FY2002 Edward Byrne Memorial Program for projects that reduce crime and increase the effectiveness, fairness and coordination of state and local level criminal justice systems. Request for Proposals was released on the OCJS website Monday, May 6, 2002. Deadline will be June 12, 2002. A significant change in this year's Byrne will be the added funding category entitled Homeland Security/Anti-Terrorism. A Byrne subgrant information session for potential applicants will be held at the CJCC offices on May 21, 2002 (10:30 AM to 11:30 AM).

Other funding opportunities:

State and Local Domestic Preparedness Grants & Training

(deadline: ongoing) additional information at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm

Check for the release of these requests for proposals and application information by visiting the OCJS web site at www.ocjs.state.oh.us or contact me at the CJCC, telephone 419-244-5819 or email ann.bowland@NORIS.org, for technical assistance or if you have any additional questions regarding these grant opportunities. I will continue to provide you with grant update information in future issues.

What's New In Training at the CJCC

by John Allen, NORIS Operations Manager

In 1999, I was asked to temporarily fill in for the NORIS training instructor who was retiring and was unable to continue classes. Three years later, I am still at it, ever enthusiastic about helping our users.

With the NORIS computer migration over, we feel it is time to move past some of the generalized training and begin to tailor instruction. Our first target audience is detectives and investigators. We have a new class entry entitled, *Suspect Searches, Crime Patterns, and Criminal Histories*, and we are certain that we're off to a great start.

The class provides a working knowledge of our Regional Identifier (RID) database containing over 600,000 RIDs with millions of pieces of information about people. The information is easily retrievable (and sort-able) and we can now give anyone the instruction needed to

build their own searches, and look for crime patterns involving people, vehicles, addresses, offenses, and more.

Anyone who becomes familiar with our latest criminal history tools will not leave disappointed. We now provide extensive court case information from the Toledo Municipal Court, the Lucas County Common Pleas Court, and the Maumee, Oregon and Sylvania Municipal Courts. The information is available in summary or case journal form.

We are continuing to explore building new searches that will provide new sources of information so repeat attendance is welcome. An example of a new query is our ñQHSPí search, available exclusively to Police Departments. The ñQHSPí query is our most summarized, yet

comprehensive form of information retrieval. NORIS continues to certify users in Criminal Case History training and how to most effectively gather information from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

The forthcoming training dates for our new *Suspect Searches, Crime Patterns, and Criminal Histories* class are: Friday May 17, Friday May 31, and Tuesday June 4. Each eight-hour session is from 08:00 a.m. until 04:00 p.m.

Don't see a class that fits your schedule or can't get into a class that is full? If you have four or more people we will be happy to reserve our training room for your group.

We have no doubt we can help everyone on the NORIS network save time as well as work better with the databases we have developed for your organizations.

Videoconferencing Utilizing An Exciting Technology In Our Area

by Scott Brahaney, Small Systems Manager

Videoconferencing is similar to talking on a telephone with the added aspect that you can see with whom you are talking.

Potential uses of videoconferencing include the handling of arraignments, telemedicine, visitations and trainings. Medical problems of inmates could also be addressed from the jail through videoconferencing. Videoconferencing can also accommodate inmate visits from family, friends and attorneys. Training can also be done via videoconferencing. There are few privacy issues involved with videoconferencing as it can be turned off just like a telephone.

NORIS is working with the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio (CCNO)

to provide videoconferencing capabilities between

CCNO and various courts. Arraignments between CCNO and courts can be done via videoconferencing thereby eliminating the need to transfer the inmates from CCNO to the court by bus.

There are two types of videoconferencing ñ traditional and Internet based (Due to its use of TCP/IP protocol, which is the protocol of the Internet, this type of videoconferencing is commonly referred to as Internet based. It is important to note that an Internet connection is NOT needed to use this type.). Internet videoconferencing is a newer technology.

The older of the two types of videoconferencing is the traditional videoconferencing. Traditional videoconferencing uses ISDN lines for connectivity and has high installation and usage costs associated with it. A special room is required for this type of videoconferencing, and the use of the videoconference must be scheduled in advance.

A newer type of videoconferencing is Internet based. This type of conferencing can be done anywhere, may use the Internet and has lower installation and usage costs associated with it.

There are two types of videoconferencing equipment that may be used for either type of videoconferencing; PC based or

standalone. PC based systems have a higher maintenance cost associated with

them because they are more complicated and have more parts connected with them. There are more potential problems using this type of equipment, such as the failure of PC components, than using a standalone ñapplianceñ based system. Standalone systems use a single piece of equipment that doesn't require connection to a PC. The standalone system has lower initial and maintenance costs than the PC based system.

I believe the standalone system is easier to use, as it is less complicated. Consider this analogy . . .you want to find the best method of watching DVDs on your home video equipment. You could place



the DVD in the CD ROM of a PC, acquire and install all required interfaces and software, then connect a television set to watch it (i.e., PC based). You could simply purchase a DVD player for the TV (i.e., standalone).

Standalone ñapplianceñ based systems do *not* require a PC. They are independent systems with high performance cameras and microphones attached to them. The cameras are controlled with a hand held remote control. Cameras are also available whereby the camera automatically moves towards the person who is currently speaking. These appliance-based systems provide better performance and flexibility.

It is imperative to have a good network connection for videoconferencing. The minimum bandwidth speed used for videoconferencing is 450 kbps.

In summary, Internet based videoconferencing is proving to be a helpful and time saving technology. As videoconferencing technology becomes more affordable and greater bandwidth becomes more available, this technology will become standardized, providing an effective, timely way of communicating. Stay tuned . . . I'll let you know how we progress with this project.

"It is imperative to have a good network connection for videoconferencing."



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Executive Director's Desk

We hope the articles contained in this first edition are informative and of interest to all of our criminal justice system practitioners and associate agencies. I want to emphasize that this is YOUR newsletter.

If you would like to contribute articles of interest or present issues that impact criminal justice efforts in Northwest Ohio, please contact Barbara Huy at the CJCC either by telephone (419) 244-5819 or email barbara.huy@noris.org.

*Nathanael Ford
Executive Director*